

agricultural situation

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The United States—the last major trading nation still using English weights and measures—has almost become an isolated island in a metric sea.

Were we not a major trading country, our lonely stance might be regarded as merely a national eccentricity.

As it is, clinging to English weights and measures has become a national expense—acting as a non-tariff barrier to U. S. sales overseas, especially of measurement sensitive products.

In fact, a special metric study made by the Department of Commerce at the request of Congress indicates that by 1975 our trade balance could suffer to the extent of \$600 million a year if we continue out of step with the rest of the world.

The impact to the entire economy

resulting from this \$600 million trade balance loss is somewhere between \$1.2 and \$1.8 billion.

Has the time come for the United States to "go metric"?

We've been toying with the notion of switching for nigh onto 150 years and, in fact are drifting in a metric direction even now. (See "Our Metric March" on page 5.)

The Statistical Reporting Service, at the nerve center of the Nation's agricultural data system, would obviously be greatly affected by any change in our measuring system.

For that reason, Dr. Harry Trelogan, SRS' Administrator, and Dr. Bruce Kelly, Director of the agency's Research Division, have participated in many of the discussions as to whether the United States should or shouldn't switch to the metric system.

These two men recently highlighted for us some of the concerns of those in agriculture regarding a changeover to metric weights and measures.

Are U. S. farm exports really suf-



fering because we're not a metric nation?

Judging from fiscal 1973, when our overseas farm sales likely reached a record level of \$12½ billion, U. S. farm exports clearly aren't being hurt very much by our nonmetric status. Except for processed agricultural items, most of the farm products we sell abroad aren't particularly measurement sensitive.

Over the long run, however, our sales could suffer as a result of trade patterns that develop between metric countries. A case in point is what's happening in Western Europe.

Between 1967 and 1970 Britain, France, and West Germany agreed among themselves on comprehensive electronic standards based on metric units. The purpose at that time was to facilitate trade among the three only of electronic products.

But this agreement, initially limited to three countries and one class of

products, is being extended to include the rest of Western Europe and to embrace other products as well.

The existence of international standards for measurement sensitive products is serving to strengthen Western Europe as a unified market for all products, including agricultural items.

Would it be very difficult for farmers to make a metric changeover?

Agricultural products, as they leave the farm, aren't especially measurement sensitive, so a changeover won't be as complicated for farmers as it would be in other industries.

To be sure, farmers will need to get themselves new scales and perhaps new marketing containers. But even in a concerted program to go metric, some things on the farm would change only slowly, and some never.

In most cases, things would be replaced with new metric models only when they wore out or became obsolete. This would certainly be true,



*Island
in
a
Metric
Sea*

for instance, of farm buildings, equipment, tools and machinery.

In the case of farm real estate deeds there would be no good reason to rewrite them in metric dimensions—meters instead of yards and hectares instead of acres—until the property changed hands and was resurveyed.

As a matter of fact, some deeds in New Orleans are still written in terms of the French foot of pre-Napoleonic times and in the Far West there are still tracts that are described not in acres but in square varas, a holdover from the Spanish grant days.

How would the Nation's agricultural statistics be affected by a conversion to the metric system?

All agricultural data collected in the past would need to be converted into metric measures—a chore that would fall largely on SRS. However, in an age of computers, the conversion of historical data is not the burden it would once have been.

There would also undoubtedly be a period of dual dimensioning—reporting

data in both English and metric terms—while people became adjusted to the new measures.

Balancing the work of switching over would be a much simpler set of agricultural statistics once we were fully on the metric system.

Our English system of weights and measures grew up haphazardly, with the result that farm products go to market not only in bushels, pounds, and gallons, but also in bags, bales, barrels, baskets, boxes, crates, cans, cases, drums, hogsheads, jars, tubs, and other containers.

Of all these containers only two, the barrel and the basket, have their sizes specified by federal law.

This lack of uniform measurements necessitates all kinds of conversions by statisticians who track the movement of farm products through the marketing system. Going metric, which would standardize the measurements and conversion factors, would ultimately make the job of reporting agricultural statistics much easier.



METRIC: A LAYMAN'S GUIDE

For most of us, accustomed as we are to our pounds and ounces, our feet and inches, it's hard to visualize the weight of a gram or the length of a meter.

Mathematical formulas—a gram is 0.035 ounce, etc.—aren't especially helpful either. What's really needed is some way to relate the metric measures to objects we all know.

So here it is—a layman's guide to the metric system, expressed in terms of everyday items.

For starters, keep in mind these three basic metric units—the gram for weight, the meter for length, and the liter for volume. Many weights and measures in the metric system derive from these. Area, for example, is measured in square meters; speed in meters per second; density in kilograms per cubic meter.

You should also learn these three prefixes that often get tacked on to the basic units—milli, meaning one-thousandth; centi, one-hundredth; and kilo, one thousand times.

The gram—about the weight of a paper clip.

The kilogram—slightly more than 2 pounds.

The megagram (or metric ton)—200 pounds heavier than our ton.

The meter—a little longer than a yard.

The millimeter—the diameter of a paper clip wire.

The centimeter—the width of a paper clip.

The kilometer—somewhat farther than half a mile.

The hectare—about 2½ acres.

The liter—a bit larger than a quart.

The milliliter—five of them make a teaspoon.

The above metric units, along with those for time, electricity, and temperature, are what we'd be mostly using if the United States were to become a metric Nation.

Time and electricity pose no conversion problems for they're the same as we're using now.

Metric temperatures are given in degrees Celsius—with 0° being the freezing point of water and 100° the boiling point.

Were we to go metric, a 37° day would really be a scorcher—nearly 99° on our Fahrenheit thermometers.

METRIC MARCH

A number of U. S. businesses have already begun shifting to the metric system in anticipation of an official changeover eventually.

A Wall Street Journal article earlier this year reported that IBM, Deere and Company, and International Harvester, among others, have already started down the path of metrification.

IBM began a 10-year phasing-in program in 1972 and plans to start using metric as its basic measure in new product development next year.

Deere and Company is designing metric equipment for production in 5 to 7 years. International Harvester also has disclosed plans to use metric measurements exclusively on new products at its Libertyville, Ill. construction equipment plant.

Competition for world markets is spurring the changeover, but so too are some domestic developments.

Automobile mechanics have added metric tools to their toolboxes because foreign vehicles have metric parts. In fact, even some automobiles made in the United States are being assembled with engines, transmissions, and other parts built to metric specifications.

On the governmental side, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration decided in 1970 to use international metric units in all its documents and reports.

And Ohio's highway department has already put up some road signs with distances specified in kilometers and is beginning to educate its personnel and suppliers about the metric system.



SPOTLIGHT ON LOUISIANA

"Boot-shaped Louisiana definitely has two types of agriculture," notes Sam Guy, statistician in charge of SRS's Crop and Livestock Reporting Service at Alexandria.

"Up north in the neck of the boot, I call our farming U. S. southern, which means cotton. To the south, our agriculture is subtropical: rice and sugarcane dominate. Lately, farmers in most parts of the Pelican State have been growing soybeans.

"Put our two climates together and you can easily see why almost every agricultural commodity grown in the Western Hemisphere can be raised here."

Louisiana's 48,000 farms cover 11.8 million acres, roughly a third of the State, while half is filled with woodlands.

During 1972, Louisianians' cash receipts from farming totaled nearly \$831 million, compared with \$696 million in 1971. Very roughly, livestock and products earned almost 39 percent and crops over 60 percent of cash receipts both years.

"Crops accounted for much of the rise in cash receipts," Guy explains. "Last year they brought farmers \$507 million as compared with over \$430 million in 1971."

The golden bean brings more money to Louisiana farmers than any other crop. "These days, soybeans earn nearly a sixth of the State's cash receipts," notes Guy, "and that's quite significant when you realize that it wasn't long ago that oil crops didn't

amount to a hill of beans around here."

Last year Louisiana farmers harvested almost 1.7 million acres of soybeans for beans, compared with 40,000 acres in 1950, and 219,000 in 1962. The fields yielded over 38 million bushels of beans last year, compared with 720,000 in 1950 and almost 5 million in 1962.

Until very recently the crop was confined mostly to the northern parishes; however, significant acreages are now grown in the subtropical southwestern heel of the State.

Louisiana stands third nationally in rice production; only neighboring Texas and Arkansas produce more. Last year, farmers harvested 522,000 acres that produced almost 20 million hundredweight of rice, roughly a quarter of U. S. production. The crop generally brings Louisiana farmers over one-eighth of their cash receipts.

The old king, cotton, now ranks as the third most important crop in the State, usually bringing in slightly less than rice in cash receipts. Last year, farmers harvested 665,000 acres which yielded 705,000 bales of lint and 276,000 tons of seed, getting Louisiana the Nation's No. 5 cotton spot.

"I think a comparison is in order for today and the times when cotton was the undisputed king of the State. I use 1937 because that was cotton's zenith in recent times. Then farmers harvested nearly 1.6 million acres for over 1.1 million bales."

Louisiana stands as one of the four States to grow sugarcane. Last year farmers harvested 335,000 acres for sugar and seed. At 26 tons per acre Louisiana produced 8.61 million tons of cane sugar and seed, behind Hawaii's 10.8 million and Florida's 9.29 million. Generally Louisiana farmers earn around a ninth of cash receipts from cane.

"While Louisiana can grow most of the world's crops, there's one Louisiana crop that grows nowhere else," Perique tobacco," Guy adds. "This pipe tobacco, which has a rich, fragrant odor and a smooth delicate taste, grows only in St. James Parish. Last year, the parish produced 120,000 pounds of Perique tobacco, most of which was exported to Europe."

Feed crops—hay, sorghum, corn, oats, even wheat, don't add up to much in the State; however, livestock are quite significant.

Lately cattle and calves have been earning more than 20 percent of cash receipts. That's a dramatic turn from the late 1960's, when cattle numbers in the State waned. They fell from 2.0 million to 1.6 million from 1965 to

1970. But at the beginning of 1973 Louisiana held 1.8 million cattle and calves.

Last year the cow-calf business earned almost \$194 million, with many feeder calves going to Texas.

The State's dairymen earned over 10 percent of total cash receipts from milk. Louisiana's milk cows produced 131.6 million gallons in 1972. Rounding out the livestock picture, poultry and eggs have brought from 7 to 8 percent of farm income in recent years.

"We still don't know the full impact on agriculture from this spring's rampage of the Mississippi," Guy notes.

"The Nation read about the flood's record breaking heights—highest since 1785—at St. Louis, but here we have always been acutely aware that all that water up river eventually comes through our State. So, for years, we've built levees and spillways, which saved us from a worse soaking this year."

"Nevertheless, the River flooded 2.7 million acres here, and already county agents estimate damage to agriculture and agribusiness at \$279 million. I don't think anyone can gauge the effects on crops till the year ends."



Oil crops, once not worth a hill of beans in Louisiana, now earn nearly a sixth of the cash receipts in the State. Soybeans dominate the oil-seed scene. The truckful seen here is but a small part of the 38 million bushels grown on 1.7 million acres last year. Till recently the crop grew mostly in northern parishes. Now it flourishes in the State's southwestern heel, too.



ANNALS OF THE ESTIMATES

The title "Crop Reporting Board" doesn't begin to tell the story. The Board not only provides producers and others in agriculture with USDA estimates for about 150 crops, but also 50 livestock items, and poultry, fertilizer, feed, seed, and bees, prices paid and received, grain stocks, mink, naval stores, farm labor and wages.

In all about 550 reports from the Washington, D. C. headquarters and over 10,000 from the 44 field offices are issued annually.

Material for the estimates most often starts with information supplied through surveys of producers.

In some cases, the surveys are by

mail, other times personal contacts are made with farmers in certain geographic areas, and those selected from master lists of producers. This information may be coupled with data from field observations and other sources.

All indications are built into a recommendation for each State, which along with the State Statistician's explanation of conditions affecting the estimate—weather, disease, labor—is sent to Washington. Data for commodities designated as speculative are held in a locked mail box until report day.

The Board—consisting of the chairman and six members representing commodity specialists and State statistical offices—determines the official State and national estimates.



State representatives on the Board change with each report to balance regional influences and assure that statisticians with first-hand knowledge from major producing areas have an input in the final estimates.

There has not always been a Board. In the first four decades of the USDA estimating program, the head of the Crop Reporting Service, alone, evaluated information from field correspondents and State statistical agents. Then in 1905 a committee of five was appointed and made an official fixture by a 1909 Act of Congress.

Security measures are imposed on the Board when it meets to determine estimates on speculative crops traded on the futures market—corn, wheat, soybeans, oranges, and cotton. Doors are locked, windows sealed, phones

disconnected during the meeting. After the estimates are set, the Secretary of Agriculture, or his representative, enters the lock up area to review and sign the report.

Reports are available to the press and public at preannounced times so that everyone has equal access to the information.

The Crop Reporting Board (above) is hard at work setting the spring wheat estimate. Members of the Board, from left to right, are: Charles J. Koiner, New England SSO; Henry L. Castle, Indiana SSO; Richard Small, Chief of the Crops Branch; Jack L. Aschwege, Head of the Grain and Hay Section; Bruce M. Graham, Chairman of the Board; Melvin L. Koehn, Secretary of the Board; Joseph C. Seibert, California SSO; G. Dean Hasenmyer, Commodity Statistician for wheat; and Robert L. Freie, Chief of the Methods Staff.



PEACH PICKING PROGRESS

Within the next few years, as soon as the bugs are out of the machines and processors gear up for handling mechanically picked peaches, many of the more progressive cling peach growers in California plan on shifting to mechanical harvesters.

Were such a switch to be complete, it would mean the replacement of roughly 2.8 million man-hours of labor (costing approximately \$7.1 million annually) by an estimated \$20.8 million worth of machines.

These are the findings of a special Economic Research Service survey which probed the potential for labor-saving practices in cling peach production.

It seems no question that the use of

mechanical harvesters will increase. The only matter really in doubt at the present time is how fast.

Growers are sensitive to the great possibility of unionization of farm-workers—which may take out of their hands decisions about direct hire of workers, wage rates, the use of certain inputs, and day-to-day management decisions. The growers are also fairly certain that wage rates for farm-workers will continue going up.

The machines, thus, would seem to be an answer to their concerns over the future availability, costs, and management of labor.

One brake to mechanized harvesting right now is the oversupply situation which has plagued cling peach growers for a number of years.

Because future price prospects aren't as bright as they'd be with a better supply-demand situation—and

because a marketing order places restrictions on the quantities sold—some producers aren't too sure they can earn enough to justify the profitable adoption of mechanical harvesters.

The machines are costly—requiring an investment of about \$25,000 each. But the ERS economists figured that the machine investment would substitute for about 1,981 hours of labor per year on the typical 40-acre peach operation; for about 3,962 hours of labor yearly on an 80-acre farm; and for 7,924 hours on a 160-acre farm.

On the 40-acre farm, every \$12.62 of machine investment (\$1.80 equivalent annual investment) would replace 1 hour of labor (\$2.50 average annual cost).

On the 80- and 160-acre farms, the machine investment-labor ratio dropped to \$0.90 and \$0.45 annually per hour of labor priced at \$2.50.

Custom work would provide an avenue for growers with smaller peach acreages to reduce their machine investment-labor ratios.

The equal cost acreage—that acreage at which hand and machine harvest costs are nearly the same—was estimated by the ERS economists to be 37 acres of mature peaches with a 14-ton per acre yield. A relative increase in labor costs of 25 percent from 1970 wage rates would lower the equal cost acreage to 29, with the same 14-ton yield.

The researchers also noted that the potential for reducing labor use on cling peaches extends beyond harvest.

Shifting from hand to chemical or mechanical thinning could cut labor use by almost as much as shifting from hand to mechanical harvest. However, growers have had little experience with these thinning methods—with varying results.

In combination, chemical or mechanical thinning and mechanical harvesting could reduce the labor needed for cling peach production by nearly half, while at the same time evening out labor use throughout the year.

HOME COOKING STILL COUNTS

Home canning and preserving usually conjure up an old fashioned image, but home processing of fruits and vegetables didn't stop with Grandma.

In fact, the familiar kitchen odors of cinnamon applesauce on the stove and beans ready for canning are still a part of modern day U. S. homes.

Fully a tenth of all the processed fruits and vegetables we eat, including jellies, jams, and juices, are "put up" at home. And if you leave out the juices, the home-processed share mounts to 17 percent of the processed produce total.

Homemakers on the farm far outpace others in home processing—canning and freezing two-thirds of the prepared fruits and vegetables they use (excluding pickles, jellies, and juices). Rural nonfarm people put up at home about one-third of their processed fruit and vegetable items, while city folks' home-preserved share is 10 percent.

Most fruits and vegetables processed at home were either home-grown or picked wild. Farm families grew about 90 percent and rural non-farm families 80 percent of their home-processed food in 1965-66. City folk also grew or picked themselves a surprising 60 percent of the food they processed at home.

Canning still ranks as the most popular form of home processing—accounting for over two-thirds of the total. Snapbeans and tomatoes, apples and peaches ranked as the home canners' favorite vegetables and fruits for processing, while corn, snapbeans and berries were tops with freezers.

THE PHOTOGENIC PECAN

When it comes to estimating crop size, pecans are a hard nut to crack.

On some surveys questionnaires sent to growers have yielded production estimates off by as much as 15 percent.

For this reason SRS researchers are experimenting with ways to improve the quality of pecan counting.

Pecan counting has difficulties which distinguish it from counting fruit crops: Before they ripen, green pecans are about the same size as leaves, and are difficult to spot. Pecan trees can also grow to heights of 100 feet, meaning that counting the nuts on sample limbs is out.

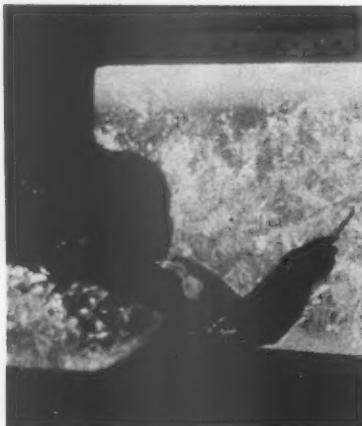
One of the more promising counting methods enlists the aid of a candid camera.

The camera is mounted on a tripod

about 50 feet from the tree; slides are taken of a single portion of the tree, and then blown up on a screen to count the individual unripened nuts. From the number of nuts on the sample section, statisticians can mathematically project the number of nuts on the whole tree.

Pecan trees are usually cyclical in yields. One year, a tree might produce 2½ pounds of pecans; the following year, as much as 121 pounds. Good yield estimates are essential to commercial users, who need to know the size of the crop.

Camera counting techniques are still in the research and development stage. Equipment is expensive, and photographers can be hampered by the weather on cloudy days. Nevertheless, the pecan is likely to find itself more and more a favorite subject for photographers—if not for its beauty, for its value as a nut crop: In 1972, U.S. pecans were worth \$77.6 million.



The photographer (left) is using a specially designed frame to take a picture of a section of a pecan tree. Later, back in the office, a projection of this slide will allow SRS staffers to make a careful count of the nuts. From the number of nuts in the sample section, statisticians can project the number of nuts on the whole tree.

ag Outlook

DIGESTED FROM OUTLOOK REPORTS OF THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE
FORECASTS BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH JULY 1, 1973

SOYBEAN STORY . . . Fanned by strong worldwide demand for protein meal, dwindling supplies, devaluation of the dollar, and general inflation, soybean prices this season shot to unprecedented highs. Early June saw soybeans costing \$12.37 a bushel (No. 1 Yellow, Chicago), more than triple the seasonal low of \$3.13 last fall. For the entire 1972/73 marketing year, farm prices are expected to average \$4.25 a bushel, well above the \$3.03 of last season and the previous record of \$3.33 set in 1947/48.

CARRYOVER on September 1 will be down to minimum levels . . . about 40 million bushels . . . as use in 1972/73 exceeded production for the fourth consecutive year.

TIGHT, TIGHT, TIGHT . . . Supplies of peanut, linseed, fish, meat scrap, poultry byproduct, and feather meal supplies have all been tight in 1972/73, with the result that prices for all have been relatively strong. The only really ample protein feeds during the marketing year have been cottonseed meal (because of the big 1972 crop) and distillers' and brewers' grains, gluten, and dairy products.

RED MEAT REVIEW . . . More and more it looks like total red meat supplies—beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton—for 1973's last 6 months won't be much bigger than a year earlier. Previously an increase was expected from an indicated upswing in pork, which isn't panning out. Also, in early June broiler type chicks in incubators were down from a year earlier.

PIG PINCH . . . No increase is in sight for the Nation's pork supply in second half 1973, although earlier a moderate increase was anticipated. The December-May pig crop, earlier expected to be up moderately, was down 2% as a result of rising feed grain prices, a consumer meat boycott, and meat price ceilings.

HOG PRICES look as if they're going to hold fairly steady during the next several months in view of the lighter than expected marketings. Prices for the entire June-December stretch will not waver substantially from recent levels.

MILK PRODUCTION, now lagging because of high feed prices, may be down more than 1% from 1972's 120.3 billion pounds. Milk feed-price ratios have deteriorated to the lowest levels since 1955. Although feed costs may decline when the harvest comes, they may not fall to levels that would encourage increases in milk production.

FARM MILK PRICES at midyear were up about 11% from a year ago . . . and farm prices are likely to continue well above year-levels during the rest of 1973, although stable wholesale dairy product prices may limit rises during the ceiling period. Cash receipts from dairying were up 7% from a year earlier during the first half, despite lower milk marketings.

DAIRY PRODUCT SALES, now on the rise, should continue above year-earlier levels for the rest of 1973, but the rate of gain for this year may be somewhat less than 1972's 3½%.

THE FUEL FIX . . . Getting enough fuel for harvesting and drying crops this fall may pose problems. It'll take about 336 million gallons of fuel, mostly gasoline, to harvest the corn and soybean crops and haul them to storage. And if the corn crop doesn't get soaked again this year, drying will require 645 million gallons of mainly LP gas.

CORN DRYING may prove the big test because it hits when homeowners are turning on LP gas to heat homes. Fuel can be saved by storing high-moisture corn in airtight silos, by delaying harvest until the moisture content drops, and by drying with unheated air.

NOT SO FAST . . . The sharp gains in land values—up 13% in the past year and 50% from 1967—aren't likely to continue much longer. The Federal Reserve Board has cranked interest rates to their highest level in several years and reports of tight money in the housing market may foreshadow a general tightening of credit.

BUT UP, NEVERTHELESS . . . Even with a slower real estate market, the general trend of prices will still be up as farmers vie with each other for growing room and with nonfarmers who want rural homes or recreation land. The advance in prices over the next several years should at least match the 1963-73 long-term trend of a nearly 7% annual compound gain.

Statistical Barometer

Item	1971	1972	1973—latest available data
Prices			
All prices received by farmers (1967=100)	112	126	172 June
Crops (1967=100)	107	116	170 June
Livestock and products (1967=100)	116	133	173 June
All prices paid by farmers (1967=100)	120	127	146 June
Production items (1967=100)	115	122	149 June
Interest (1967=100)	138	149	165 June
Taxes (1967=100)	144	155	161 June
Wage rates (1967=100)	134	142	157 June
Family living items (1967=100)	119	124	137 June
Ratio ¹ (1967=100)	94	99	118 June
Consumer price index, all items (1967=100)	121	125	132 May
Food (1967=100)	118	124	138 May
Farm Income:			
Volume of farm marketings (1967=100)	111	111	98 4
Cash receipts from farm marketings (\$bil.)	53.1	58.5	68.5 4
Crops (\$bil.)	22.6	24.2	— 4
Livestock (\$bil.)	30.5	34.3	— 4
Realized gross farm income (\$bil.)	60.1	66.4	75.6 4
Production expenses (\$bil.)	44.0	47.2	53.5 4
Realized net farm income (\$bil.)	16.1	19.2	22.1 4
Income and Spending:			
Disposable personal income, total (\$bil.)	744.4	795.1	850.9 4
Expenditures for food (\$bil.)	117.3	124.4	133.0 4
Share of income spent for food (percent)	15.8	15.7	15.6 4
Farm Food Market Basket: ²			
Retail cost (1967=100)	116	121	138 May
Farm value (1967=100)	114	124	157 May
Farmers' share of retail cost (percent)	38	40	44
Agricultural Trade:			
Agricultural exports (\$bil.)	7.7	9.4	11.5 July-May
Agricultural imports (\$bil.)	5.8	6.5	6.7 July-May
Farms and Farmland:			
Farm real estate values per acre (\$)	203	219	247 March
Total value of farm real estate (\$bil.)	214.1	230.5	258.7 March
Hogs and Pigs on Farms:			
Hogs and pigs on farms, June 1	65.9	60.7	60.3 June
December ³ -May pig crop	52.6	47.6	46.8 June
June-November pig crop	45.9	43.2	⁴ 43.6 June

¹ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.

² Average quantities per family and single person households bought by wage and clerical workers, 1960-61, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.

³ December preceding year.

⁴ Annual rate seasonally adjusted first quarter.

⁵ Average number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to compute indicated June-November pig crop.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

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